

MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Wednesday, January 31, 2007 - 2:00 p.m.  
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex

Member Present: Sen. Allen Christensen, Committee Co-Chair  
Rep. Merlynn Newbold, Committee Co-Chair  
Sen. Peter Knudson  
Sen. Ross Romero  
Rep. David Litvack  
Rep. Roz McGee  
Rep. Paul Neuenschwander  
Rep. Steve Urquhart  
Rep. Paul Ray  
Rep. Ken Sumsion

Members Absent: Sen. Chris Butters

Staff Present: William Greer, Fiscal Analyst  
Debbie Headden, Fiscal Analyst  
Norda Shepard, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Rep. Rhonda Menlove  
David Yowell  
Dan Durtschi, Job Coach  
Dawn Cutler Enable Industries  
Brett Slack, Admiral Beverage  
George Kelner, Director, Division of Services for People with Disabilities  
Brooke Wilson, Parent  
Gabriel Vega, Parent  
Rep. Tim Cosgrove  
Capt. Clay Anstead, Chaplin, Utah Army National Guard  
Sylvia Richert, American Cancer Society  
Rep. Becky Lockhart  
Rep. Karen Morgan  
Karmen Sanone, Salt Lake County Aging  
Curtis Haring, Senator Mayne's Intern  
Dr. Douglas Goldsmith, Executive Director, The Children's Center  
Kara Lyon  
Tracy Winegar  
Lalani Williams  
Krysda Kiester  
Trisha Nelson  
Alice Perrault-Stubbing, Disability Community Alliance  
Greg Mills  
Kathy Mills  
Jodi and Jacob Hansen  
Amy Weyrich  
Cheryl Smith  
Paula Monaco  
Anne Clyde  
Justin Olson  
Debbie Johansson  
Rebecca Hyde

Ron Hone  
Julie Beckstead  
Ricki Landers  
Ken Wulle  
Barbara Toomer  
Ron Faber  
Thayne Cloward  
Miriam Cloward  
Rena Baturin  
Terry McNeil  
Tammi Diaz  
Maureen Johnson  
Val Sitzman  
Dave Smith, United Way  
Mary Gully  
Liz Felt  
Kim Haws  
Jake Short  
Kerri Ernsten  
Sandra Troester  
Zach Wittwer  
Patrick Johnson  
Linda Timmins  
Rob Morrow  
Eric Bjorklund, Utah Youth Village  
Rebecca Larsen  
Richard Nance  
Jeffrey Buhman, Utah County Attorney  
Marci Roundy  
Sylvia Scott  
Sherri Wittwer, Director, Utah NAMI  
Rose Carbine  
Robert Labrum  
Nita Smith  
Jenna Cloward  
Alesha Mechling  
Randy Shupe  
Joyce Dolcourt, ARC of Utah  
Andrew Riggle, Disability Law Center  
Lisa Madsen  
Tom Browlee  
Rick Schwerner, Administrative Office of Courts  
Deann Stahli, Doctor's Free Clinic, St. George  
Valeri Fitz, President/CEO, Utah Alcoholism Foundation  
Dr. Barbara Sullivan, Chairman, Utah Alcoholism Foundation  
Maureen James, Granite School District  
George Monsivais, Citizens Board for the Division of Child and Family Services  
Richard Hatch, Valley Mental Health  
Christene Jones, Utah Association of Community Services  
Matthew Draper  
Brandi Johnson  
Matt Hanslow

Keith Nelson

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Newbold at 2:15 p.m.

Co-Chair Newbold announced that Room W015 on the lower level was available for an overflow if no seating was available. Co-Chair Newbold stated there were a large number of people who wished to speak and each speaker, including Legislators, would be allowed two minutes. She indicated the meeting would end at 5:00 p.m. She also asked those who spoke to speak about issues that have not already been addressed.

She advised subcommittee members to make their priority lists and turn them into Analyst Greer or Analyst Headden before 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, prioritizing separate lists for the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services.

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Rep. McGee moved to approve the minutes of January 24, 2007. The motion passed unanimously with Reps. Urquhart and Sumsion absent at the time of the vote.

### **2. Requests for Appropriations**

Rep. Rhonda Menlove stated she was asking continued support for the Supported Employment Pilot Program. She introduced David Yowell and his job coach Dan Durtschi. David said he worked at Admiral Beverage cleaning rooms and other jobs. Mr. Durtschi stated that the pilot is a great opportunity and David was doing well. Dawn Cutler, Enable Industries, said her company helps find jobs for the people on the pilot and feels it is a good program. Brett Slack from Admiral Beverage indicated that Brian Allred makes \$10 an hour and is a wonderful employee.

Rep. Menlove distributed a handout and said her bill H.B. 47, Pilot Program for Family Preservation Services, is designed to assist 100 to 200 disabled individuals to remain with their families. George Kelner, Director, Division of Services for People with Disabilities, said this bill is another example of how to approach the waiting list from both ends. Brooke Wilson who has a child on the waiting list said it would be a great benefit to her family. Gabriel Vega, a parent with two disabled children, spoke in favor of both the pilot program and family preservation services.

Rep. Tim Cosgrove stated that last year HB 407 provided limited services for the armed forces returning from active duty. He is asking support to add to these services. Capt. Clay Anstead, Utah National Guard Chaplain, distributed a handout and said this would bring support to about 300 additional couples. Rep. Cosgrove said there is a request for one-time funding of \$270,000.

Rep. Ray requested support for on-going \$400,000 for (1) Gold Medal Schools, which teach children healthy life styles; (2) \$1 million on-going for childhood immunization; and (3) \$750,000 on-going for cervical and breast cancer screening to help women below 250% level of poverty. Sylvia Rickert, American Cancer Society stated certain funding takes care of less than 3% of those who are eligible and additional funding would be a helpful addition.

Rep. Ray made a requesting on behalf of Rep. Hutching for \$300,000 one-time General Funds for the Aging Care Givers Program to train care givers and help keep people out of long-term institutions.

Rep. Becky Lockhart said H.B. 391, Utah State Hospital Amendments, has a \$100,000 one-time preliminary fiscal note to issue an RFP to see if anyone would be interested in running the state hospital as a private contractor.

Rep. Karen Morgan said H.B. 358, Cervical Cancer Prevention, with a fiscal note of \$1 million, would direct the

Department of Health to plan an education program to educate people on the risk of cervical cancer and to start prevention programs. She said there are new screenings and new vaccines that can help wipe out this disease.

Karmen Sanone, Salt Lake County Aging, representing Rep. Melvin Brown, said they were requesting \$100,000 for senior center transportation and renovations. She said there are eleven centers that are requesting significant repairs and twenty seven specialized vans need to be replaced across the state.

Rep. Litvack said H.B. 28, Domestic Violence and Dating Violence Amendments, has a fiscal note of \$23,300 going to the Division of Child and Family Services for overtime for case workers to develop a volunteer network related to domestic and dating violence support.

Curtis Haring, Sen. Mayne's intern, said S.B. 61, Portability of Medical Assistance Funds, would give 3,000 people the option to live at home instead of becoming wards of the state. He said \$10 million of the fiscal note of \$12.2 million would go to the Department of Human Services and the rest to the Department of Health. These funds would be matched with federal funds.

Co-Chair Newbold introduced Dr. Douglas Goldsmith, Executive Director, The Children's Center, to discuss the Children's Center. He said the Children's Center's Mental Health Initiative is creating a statewide system of care for children exhibiting various disorders. This funding request of \$500,000 on-going funds will help to prevent these children from having lifelong mental health problems. There are four centers participating in the initiative in Brigham City, Cedar City, Price, and Vernal. Chair Newbold spoke about H.B. 245, Child Welfare Amendments. She stated the bill would bring the state into compliance with the Adam Walsh federal legislation.

Chair Newbold said this was a fast overview of these issues and if more information was needed each subcommittee member could meet with the sponsors for further explanation.

### **3. Public Testimony**

Kara Lyon distributed a handout and said what is decided does make a difference in families lives. She said she has two children with autism and without funding through DHS the cost of treatment would be prohibitive.

Tracy Winegar distributed information from the Northern Utah Autism Program. She said 1 out of 166 children has autism, for which there is no cure, but early intervention treatment makes a great difference. She said tax payers will save money in the end if a child is treated early. She said it is essential to eliminate the waiting list for autism.

Lalani Williams said she noticed a difference in her child at an early age. She had no communication skills. With one on one training she has learned to communicate and comprehend. She has also learned life and social skills. She said early intervention for autism is very valuable to the child and to parents.

Krysda Kieter said she is a parent of a child on the waiting list for autism. She said before moving to Utah she heard they had fantastic programs for autism, but she has not found that to be so. She said her child has regressed in the last three months since they have been here and she feels overwhelmed. She said please fund this program so her son can get the needed help.

Trisha Nelson introduced her son Riley who is on the autism waiting list. She said her son was speaking before autism took over and then he regressed. She said it is very distressing to be on a waiting list while knowing that services could be helpful to her son. She said any hope that could be given to families would be appreciated.

Alice Perrault-Stubbing, Disability Community Alliance, said parents do not have super powers and cannot always handle everything on their own. Funding has changed lives. She said this is the year to eliminate the DSPD waiting list and to pay providers fairly.

Greg Mills said their son, Clayton, went through early intervention and it helped him communicate and be more functional in the family and social settings. His wife, Kathy, said this program can do great things for children. She said she knows families are struggling and this can make a difference.

Jacob Hansen said he would like to thank everyone. His mother, Jodi, said Jacob needs help 24 hours a day. His formula alone costs about \$300 a month. She said she had family help for awhile but now needs support. She said with respite care it gives her time for community service. She asked to please help

Amy Weyrich introduced her son, Sam, and indicated Sam has been on the waiting list for six years. She said she had to quite her job to care for him and is really in need of respite care. She said her family contributes to the state economy and is frustrated that they can't receive \$2,000 from state funds to help with their needs. She said in this time of good economy it is time to think out of the box and not just put a band aid on problems.

Cheryl Smith stated she has a son with autism and she was here to ask for funding to take the 2,600 autistic children in Utah off the waiting list. She said statistics show that 300 new babies could be born with this disease and we are way behind in funding now. The cost will be much greater if we don't spend the money now. She distributed a handout.

Paula Monaco stated she has a daughter with autism who has been receiving early intervention and she would not be doing as well as she is without it. She said she was asking for help for other parents so their children could have this help also.

Anne Clyde said she cared for her daughter for 33 years before she passed away. She said she received respite care thirteen years ago and was lobbying today for respite care and day care. She said to please use a small amount of money for respite care as it is so important. She also asked for a cost of living increase for workers who give care.

Justin Olson stated he lives in a group home and they have to train the staff over and over because they don't get paid enough to stay on the job. He said he would like to see an increase in pay for staff and providers.

Debbie Johnson said she has a 19 year old disabled daughter, Katie, who was on the waiting list for six years. She said she can't describe how it feels to be on call 24 hours a day. She said it has been a big change with respite care and she has been able to get a job. Katie is also working. She said without help families break down. She said to please provide more services to keep families running well.

Rebecca Hyde said her daughter has multiple disabilities. She said last year she was a single mom not knowing how to cope. Her family was near financial ruin and about to lose their home. This all changed when her daughter was taken off the waiting list and received services. She said there is no peace in her home. She said this not only saved her daughter but save the family also. She said please find funding to save other families.

Rod Hone said he would like to address the DSPD waiting list. He said he has 16 year old triplets with multiple disabilities and a 12 year old who were on the waiting list for several years. He said they now have some help. He said thanks for the funding from last year and asked that it be continued to support those still waiting.

Julie Beckstead read a letter from Dawn Hunt whose family has struggled many years. She is now in an independent living center. She urged that disabilities waivers be funded to make it possible for other to have a better life.

Co-Chair Newbold turned the chair to Co-Chair Christensen.

Ricki Landers said she was speaking in support of S.B. 61 so people could live in their own homes as opposed to an institution setting. She also said the dental and vision affect so many aspects of life and urged funding.

Ken Wulle states he has been a care giver for his wife for many years . He said people on the waiting list need funding. Being able to live at home is a better deal for everyone.

Barbara Toomer said if we don't back home related services then all disabled people could be in nursing homes at a much higher cost. Living at home is much cheaper and certainly more life sustaining. He said the answer to the waiting list is not nursing homes. He said dental and vision coverage is also essential to the quality of life. Rep. Litvack stated he had noticed a newspaper article that honored Barbara for her career in the military and her efforts in community service and commended her for this service..

Ron Faber said he cares for his wife who has MS and he also has a handicapped daughter. He sated he had read on the internet about Utah not covering dental and vision and not paying adequately for providers. He said it was an embarrassment.

Thayne Cloward said he suffered a brain injury about ten years ago in a water skiing accident and is now receiving services after waiting about eight years. He said he was thankful for the service. Mariam Cloward said the services has been marvelous. She said Thayne is now volunteering at a school.

Ranae Baturin said she desperately needs to get off the waiting list as she needs help with all daily tasks. She said please expand the money so you can help many people.

Terry McNeil reported that his brother-in-law came to live in his home when his parents died. He has been on the waiting list for five years. He said these people need help and you can't find a better group of people anywhere.

Tammi Diaz said she was in an auto/pedestrian accident in 1995 and as a result suffered a brain injury. She said it has been a challenge. She distributed a letter that described her life. She said she and her friends need help.

Karmen Sanone urged funding of the transportation building block. She said this is essential for those in home care.

Maureen Johnson stated she cared for her husband at home for eight years. He is now in a nursing home because she became ill. Her husband is on the waiting list for in home care and is anxious to come home.

Val Sitzman stated he is a volunteer for meals-on-wheels and it has blessed his life to be able to help these people who are home bound. He said he sees so many needs. He said if we have surplus we should use it to fund these many mind bogging needs.

Dave Smith, United Way, distributed a fact sheet and said he came to campaign for mental health treatment for the uninsured. He said the number of mental health cases presented at emergency rooms increased significantly from 21,525 cases in 2004 to 30,767 in 2005 because of lack of funding.

Mary Gully said she has sons who are mentally ill. She said she has seen people who fall through the cracks because they are uninsured. She said mental illness has a devastating effect on individuals and their families. We need help desperately or more ER visits will be seen.

Liz Felt said she has dealt with mental illness for ten years but she is lucky because she has insurance and family support. She said she is on four medications and treatment works and recovery is possible. She said her life has been saved through treatment and she can now give back to the community. She said many people do not have this help and we need funding for them.

Kim Haws said that sixteen years ago she suffered from mental depression but had friends who introduced her to NAMI. She said she has had treatment and is now on the front line asking help for others.

Jake Short recited the story of his severe mental illness. He said he was stable until he was sixteen. He said he now works to help others and he had watched some come through the court system who have no family support or funds for treatment.

Kerri Ernsten said treatment can be like night and day. She said she works for NAMI but is also a consumer of services. Because of treatment she is working and happy after twelve years of illness. She said funding brings hope. People who get treatment can be happy people.

Sandra Troester said she was here to raise support for the legislation for education about prescription drug abuse. She said her son became addicted to prescription drugs after an accident and spent many months in treatment. He passed away from an overdose of a combination of prescribed drugs and she hoped this legislation could spare other families.

Zach Wittwer said he used to have extreme rage and got in fights at school but his mother got him treatment and receiving treatment has made a great difference. He is now a member of First Lady Huntsman's "Power in Youth." He said he was here to plead for funding so people can get the help they need.

Patrick Johnson said he is saddened that not much has changed in funding for mental health since 2002 when cuts were made because resources were not there. He said now that we have resources, it is a sad statement where we are placing them. Funding for mental health care is sadly lacking. He urged more care for the uninsured.

Linda Timmins said she is a retired case manager for Salt Lake Mental Health. She said she is increasingly appalled that mental illness has been criminalized due to cracks in the system. She said to imagine if you couldn't get the medications you needed. She said she came to ask, beg, and plead for funding for mental health.

Rob Morrow, a volunteer for NAMI, said he suffered mental illness eight years ago but is now stable. He said this illness can hit all families and urged more funding. He said people with mental illness can be successful with treatment.

Eric Bjorklund, Utah Youth Village, said provider reimbursements need to be raised. If not, we will lose good providers and good providers are needed to provide good services.

Rebecca Larsen said she came from a dysfunctional family and ended up in foster care. She said because of the help she has received she has learned skills to hold a job and is going to school.

Richard Nance said he came to speak in support of funding for Drug Courts. He said Drug Court outcomes are good and it is a good way to give treatment and fight crime.

Jeffrey Buhman, Utah County Attorney, stated that Drug Courts are the best program to combat drug abuse. He said that most crimes come about because of drug abuse. He said money appropriated to Drug Courts will help both in drug treatment and crime prevention and help save lives.

Marci Roundy told the story of her drug addiction. She said she had a child and was clean for awhile but returned to drugs. She went to the House of Hope to get help so she could keep her daughter. She had treatment for four months which gave her hope to remain sober. She said she will graduate from college. She said family center treatment is invaluable.

Sylvia Scott introduced her son, William, who has severe mental illness. She said they receive great service from the state and would ask that local mental health centers be funded so others can get treatment.

Sherri Wittwer, Director, Utah NAMI, said many people struggle with mental illness. She gave examples of some of their stories. She said this is a crisis and we need public, private and government cooperation to meet the challenge.

Rose Carbine, a teacher and single parent, said she has a son with serious mental problems. She said she wants to be a voice for adequate funding for the many people who suffer with poor mental health.

Robert Labrum said he wished to urge continued funding for the Carmen Pingree School of Autism. He said parents are devastated when they learn their child has autism but there is hope with treatment. He said his son has made tremendous strides. He said he is able to pay for services but most cannot and there is a waiting list. He said he was asking that the school receive additional funding.

Nita Smith said she wanted to draw attention to the brain injury waiver and funding for the waiting list.

Jenna Cloward said she has a son with autism who is receiving treatment and making progress. She said she was grateful for the funding and asked for more funding that other families can benefit.

Alesha Mechling stated she has two sons with autism. She said early intervention is critical. Her older son will be mainstreamed. She said funding is important and there has been a huge difference in her sons and family.

Randy Shupe, whose son had a brain tumor when he was two and a half and is now seventeen, stated that mental health issues are very important. We need additional funding for mental health.

Joyce Dolcourt, ARC Utah, distributed a handout and said she would like to draw attention to the draft concerning Home and Community Based Services Waiting List. She recommended additional funding for those already on the waiver.

Andrew Riggle, Disability Law Center, distributed a handout concerning funding the home and community based waiver services and waiting list.

Lisa Madsen said she wanted to say thank you for bringing her family off the disability waiting list. She said being able to stay with family and have their support is vital.

Tom Browlee distributed a pamphlet concerning his life and requests. He said he has been on the waiting list seven years and hoped the list could be funded as it is very important.

Rich Schwerner, Administrative Office of Courts, said the Drug Court program is in phase two and a great deal has been done in eleven years. He said this is the most effective treatment model for people in the criminal system. He said we need to expand and hoped that funding would be appropriated.

Deann Stahl from the Doctor's Free Clinic in St. George said this clinic has been in operation for eight years. She said it is a safety net for mental health patients. She suggested we need a public/private partnership to work together to insure all uninsured people receive the help they need.

Valeri Fitz, President/CEO, Utah Alcoholism Foundation, said they were requesting \$2,525,600 of annual on-going funding to expand treatment service for an additional 600 women with children throughout the state. She distributed a fact sheet outlining the proposal.

Dr. Barbara Sullivan Chairman, Utah Alcoholism Foundation, indicated they are making headway in treating substance addiction, which she said is a disease of the brain. She said the \$2.5 million for women's treatment is very needed as there is a waiting list for treatment.

Maureen James, Granite School District, said she would like to support NAMI in their efforts to work with families with mental health issues.

George Monsivais, Chairman, Citizen Board of the Division of Child and Family Services distributed a handout entitled "Strong Foundations for the Welfare of Children." He said Utah case workers are the most poorly paid in the inter-mountain west. Many are leaving to go to other states where the pay is considerably higher. If we lose caseworkers we leave Utah children at risk. He said these case workers need adequate pay.



Richard Hatch from Valley Mental Health distributed a statement concerning mental health issues that impact our lives. He said there is a great need for more funding to adequately serve those in need. He said if health clinics are not available, these patients end up in the emergency rooms.

Christene Jones said the Utah Association of Community Services represents forty different agencies who provide services throughout the state under contract with the state. She said their big concern is being able to hire and maintain staff because of not being able to offer a competitive salary.

Matthew Draper said he is a patient of Valley Mental Health. He said mental patients need to take an active role in their own lives and need a support system. He asked for adequate funding.

Brandi Johnson said she was here to bring attention to issues that impact our lives. She said she spoke for those who suffer from mental illness and need services, especially the uninsured. She said she hoped mental health funding would be made.

Matt Hanslow, Valley Mental Health patient, said people do not choose to be mentally ill. They want to be able to perform in the community and want to erase the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Keith Nelson said he was very grateful for the care he has received at Valley Mental Health. He said if money is spent to nail down the problem early, it would save more money in the long run.

#### **4. Other Committee Business**

Co-Chair Newbold thanked everyone who had made the effort to come and testify. She reminded subcommittee members to prepare and hand in their priority lists.

**MOTION:** Rep. Livtack moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson absent at the time of the vote.

Co-Chair Newbold adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Norda Shepard, Secretary

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Sen. Allen Christensen, Committee Co-Chair

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Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold, Committee Co-Chair